

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 293
By McDonald

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory and commend the gallantry
of Corporal Patrick Nixon, United States
Marines.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Tennesseans have continued this time-honored tradition of volunteerism through service in the United States Marines and other branches of the military; and

WHEREAS, one such brave and dedicated Tennessean was Patrick Nixon of Gallatin, a 2000 graduate of Overton High School, the son of David Nixon and Debra, his step-mother; following the tradition of a great-grandfather, a grandfather, his father, and both brothers, he had determined early in life to join the military; and

WHEREAS, Patrick enlisted in the Marines following graduation and went to Parris Island, South Carolina for basic training; he served in Okinawa and at Camp Lejeune, receiving promotions to Lance Corporal and Corporal before being deployed to Iraq; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2003, Corporal Nixon was part of a unit that was ambushed while trying to secure a bridge at Nasiriyah, Iraq; one of eight Marines declared missing, he was confirmed dead on March 30; and

WHEREAS, a beloved son, brother, and uncle within his extended family, Patrick Nixon had wanted to become a history teacher in addition to his military career, and to eventually acquire a farm and raise horses; like thousands of others of this nation's sons and daughters, he did not shrink from serving in combat, believing in the justice of the cause to protect our national security and liberty and to free the Iraqi people; and

WHEREAS, Corporal Patrick Nixon served with great courage and gallantry, giving his life for his country and for the cause in which he believed; for that ultimate sacrifice, he deserves proper recognition for heroism both in the United States Marine Corps and in society today; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly joins with Patrick Nixon's parents, David and Debra Nixon; his brothers and sisters, Bill Hudson, Joe Nixon and Ginger Ford; his nieces, nephews and other members of his extended family in mourning the untimely death of this courageous young Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, Corporal Nixon performed his duties with the utmost skill, dedication and professionalism - service which can only be categorized as outstanding; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby join with the citizens of Tennessee and all Americans in extending to the family of Corporal Patrick Nixon our profound condolences for the loss of this brave young man.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our deep gratitude for his heroic sacrifice for his nation and the cause of freedom; his valor and commitment will live in our hearts as an enduring example of all that is good and noble in service to country.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

